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* The compilation of data required to provide the Executive Board with the most current information has delayed submission of the present report.

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I. Organizational matters

1. The annual session 2010 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA was held at United Nations Headquarters, Geneva, from 21 June to 2 July 2010.

2. The Executive Board approved the agenda and workplan for its annual session 2010 (DP/2010/L.2 and Corr.1), and approved the report of the first regular session 2010 (DP/2010/15).

3. The Executive Board agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2010:

Second regular session 2010: 30 August to 3 September 2010.

4. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the annual session 2010 were included in document DP/2010/34, accessible at www.undp.org/execbrd.

UNDP segment

II. Statement by the Administrator and annual report of the Administrator

5. In her opening statement, the Administrator thanked the Executive Board President for his stewardship and the Vice-Presidents for their hard work and support. She then welcomed the new Director for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and that of the Partnerships Bureau. She outlined the adaptation and comparative advantage of UNDP against the backdrop of 21st century development challenges and the desire of programme countries to change their development status. She emphasized that the overall priority of the organization will remain on poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as encapsulated in the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2008-2013.

6. The Administrator also introduced the Business Action Plan that aims to improve UNDP performance and sharpen implementation of the strategic plan. She highlighted its seven key work streams: positioning UNDP as a world-class knowledge-based organization; measuring and managing by results; building new strategic partnerships; managing performance and developing staff capacity; driving effectiveness, internal efficiencies and realigning incentives; strategic communications; and driving United Nations development coordination at country level. To this end, she noted the operational steering groups at the country office, regional centre and headquarters levels, and recent discussions with staff around the world about the change programme.

7. In light of the downward financial contribution trends of 2009 and 2010 to UNDP core resources, she underscored the need for the Board to help ensure more predictable and the right level and type of 'core' resources to deliver expected results in programme countries. She remarked that the high level of US $3.7 billion contributions to the 'non-core' resources in 2009 showed UNDP to be the partner of choice of donors. She thanked those Member States who had already contributed to the regular resources of UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2010, and also those who have made multi-year pledges.

8. She touched upon key results and elaborated on achievements, challenges and priority actions in the six outcome areas in the annual report which relate to, inter alia: demonstrating results; national capacity development; the focus on poverty and the MDGs; gender issues; HIV/AIDS; environmental threats like climate change; crisis prevention and recovery; and United Nations reform. She explained that the contribution of UNDP to democratic governance, while not one of the six outcomes in the annual report, remains a major component of the work of the organization. She also highlighted the importance of cross-cutting programmes such as South-South cooperation, gender equality and the role of UNDP in supporting governments to address their human development needs, improve national planning and budget allocation processes and foster national innovation.

9. On the MDGs, the Administrator reiterated UNDP's message that the "MDGs can be achieved" by 2015. She urged for more political support through highest-level participation from Member States during the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs (MDG Summit) to be held in September 2010. She spoke of recent initiatives around the MDGs including the UNDP-led International Assessment and support provided to over 30 countries in preparing in-depth national MDG reports. She highlighted some common areas for priority action, inter alia: support for country-led development; fostering inclusive economic growth; expanding opportunities for women and girls; scaling-up of social protection and employment programmes; and, fulfilment of ODA commitments by the international community To this end, she noted that, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has projected that ODA delivery by the end of 2010 will be 38 per cent short of the increase that was promised at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles. She reiterated her appreciation for the guidance of the Executive Board since she took office 14 months ago, and expressed confidence in their support to help UNDP continue to increase its development impact as well as its leadership of the United Nations development system.

10. In making their general statements, delegations reiterated that UNDP focus remains on poverty reduction, economic growth and sustainable development. They welcomed the MDGs as a priority as well as the mainstreaming of climate change responses into development activities. Delegations expressed concern about the decline in regular resources in 2009 and the similar downward trend in 2010, emphasizing that UNDP must use its resources more efficiently and improve communication of UNDP 'added-value' to the public, donors and partners. Several delegations observed that the lack of sufficient regular resources could jeopardize coherence of activities, and urged UNDP to consider new and innovative financing mechanisms. Recognizing that Africa will probably not meet the MDGs by 2015, they called upon UNDP to increase the visibility of the continent in forums, debates and work.

11. Delegations commended the Business Action Plan. They welcomed the increase in evidence-based reporting and demonstration of longer-term, outcome-level results and lessons learned since the Administrator assumed office, in particular in the annual report. Delegations urged for a more clear demonstration of UNDP contribution to development outcomes versus global ones. They also called for improved evidence-based evaluation in the mid-term review, especially with regard to decentralized evaluation. One delegation requested the use of more gender indicators in the noted the annual report.

12. Delegations expressed hope that the MDG Summit would result in an action-oriented plan and greater policy coherence with special attention to MDG 4 (reduce child mortality) and MDG 5 (improve maternal health), where progress is lagging behind. They voiced concern at the trend of reversal of development gains mainly due to the global economic crisis and identified the Summit as critical for resource mobilization in broadening the donor base and improving burden-sharing of ODA. The UNDP report "Beyond the Midpoint" and the UNDP-led International Assessment were acknowledged as a roadmap and UNDP was commended by delegations for showing leadership.

13. Capacity-building was recognized by delegations as an essential and effective way of encouraging knowledge transfer and promoting sustainable development in programme countries. Delegations lauded the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and called for additional support to the Unit as the United Nations system-wide coordinator for south-south and 'triangular' development cooperation. They suggested to strengthen existing South-South centres of excellence or to create new ones at the regional and inter-regional levels. Delegations reiterated that South-South cooperation is complementary to and not a substitute for North-South cooperation. To meet the organization's increased focus on capacity development, delegations urged to ensure sufficient qualitative and quantitative human resources. They also requested more examples in future reports of how UNDP strengthens capacity development.

14. Delegations recognized the increase in UNDP support towards gender equality, such as in disaster risk reduction and the gender dimension in HIV and AIDS. They urged more focus on gender mainstreaming, especially in the largest country programme, Afghanistan, and in cross-cutting programmes. A few delegations emphasized that they looked to the Administrator as Head of UNDP and Chair of the United Nations Development Group to contribute towards a strong new gender entity.

15. Delegations commended the efforts to strengthen the coordination role of UNDP within the United Nations system. They noted progress in the "Delivering as One" pilot countries. It was also reiterated that "the old way of doing business is no longer an option" and urged the creation of flexible mechanisms for self-starter countries along with the mainstreaming of best practices in areas like human resources and common reporting. Delegations requested the United Nations Resident Coordinator role be further equipped with a level of authority that matches their accountability, including as Humanitarian Coordinator. The need to separate the function of United Nations Resident Coordinator from that of the UNDP Country Director was stressed by delegations.

16. In closing, the Administrator noted that for the mid-term review in 2011, UNDP will take into account feedback on the annual report 2009 and continue to hold informal consultations with the Executive Board. She thanked delegations for their constructive comments, and welcomed the remarks on, inter alia: the importance of knowledge-management and dissemination of best practices; focusing on results; building capacity and national ownership; getting the right staff in the right places; driving efficiency to maximize resources; communicating back better to Member States; and driving forward the UNDP coordination role. She noted these issues are to be addressed through the Business Action Plan.

17. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, presented an overview of how UNDP supports capacity development, gender equality and other peace-building initiatives aimed at preventing and responding to violent crises and natural disasters. The Minister of Planning of the Democratic Republic of the Congo spoke of his country's political and economic progress and challenges in achieving sustainable growth. Delegations appreciated the country perspective and lauded the country's longer-term development approach.

18. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/13 on the annual report of the Administrator on the strategic plan: performance and results for 2009, and took note of the report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2009 (DP/2010/17/Add.1) and the Statistical Annex (DP/2010/17/Add.2).

III. Funding commitments to UNDP

19. The Associate Administrator introduced the item, thanking partners who have already contributed to regular resources. She reiterated UNDP commitment to expand its core donor base and to further demonstrate overall relevance and results.

20. The Deputy Assistant Administrator and Acting Director of the Partnerships Bureau summarized the UNDP budget numbers, highlighting that core resources in nominal terms dropped by 9 per cent from 2008, or from US$ 1.1 billion to US$ 1.01 billion. He stated that core resources are expected to fall to US$ 960 million in 2010, significantly short of the US$ 1.4 billion annual target. He outlined five fundamental issues for consideration by the Executive Board: (a) the need to re-balance core and non-core resources; (b) the predictability of funding (or lack thereof); (c) over-dependence on a handful of donors; (d) the effects of exchange rate fluctuation in projecting core resources; and, (e) financial support as key to meeting strategic plan objectives as agreed upon with the Executive Board. He named the top five contributors to regular resources, reviewed the core contribution status, and remarked on the US$ 4.7 billion in non-core resources contributions and its associated funds and programmes.

21. Delegations were concerned about the decline in regular resources and noted the Executive Board's responsibility to ensure sufficient and predictable resources. They welcomed UNDP commitment to more clear demonstration of results and effectiveness, which they observed would help mobilize resources. One delegation stressed that it was not fully satisfied with current UNDP project management and reporting, emphasizing that rigorous reporting was key to that Member State's willingness to give more funds.

22. One delegation requested information on the preference by donors for single-year funding. Another delegation lauded the full core funding contribution approach of Belgium, urging that it could be a model for donors. One other questioned if governance of non-core contributions was sufficiently aligned with UNDP objectives, especially at the country level.

23. The Associate Administrator emphasized that a cultural change is underway in the organization, with already evident improvements in focus, results and outcomes as well as reporting. She welcomed best practices in funding mechanisms and suggestions to improve results-based reporting.

24. The Deputy Assistant Administrator reiterated commitment to strengthening results-based reporting. He reminded that non-core funding used for UNDAF activities and country programmes is often mobilized at the country-level and approved by the Executive Board. He emphasized that non-core resources help fill in the lack of regular resources.

25. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/14 on the report on funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2010 and onwards.

IV. Evaluation

26. The Director, Evaluation Office, briefed the Executive Board on the report on evaluation (DP/2010/19) and presented the proposed workplan for 2010-2011.

27. Delegations stressed that decentralized evaluation was weak and there is need for strengthened monitoring and evaluation capacity at the country level. They urged for programmatic goals that are specific, realistic and measurable, which they observed would help in the communication of results. Delegations asked if the mid-term review could include how UNDP has narrowed programme level goals for better results-based management. They also requested a focus on fewer and high-impact policy-level programmes to reduce existing fragmentation of country activities. One delegation was concerned about the high ratio of internal audit recommendations under the project/programme management category as outlined in the report on internal audit and investigations (DP/2010/31).

Review of the UNDP evaluation policy and management response

28. The independent review of the UNDP evaluation policy (DP/2010/20) was introduced by the co-author of the review team. The Associate Administrator provided the UNDP management response, addressing key issues and highlighting actions taken to strengthen performance.

29. Delegations observed the varying quality and compliance of evaluation among country offices, remarking that such differences undermine the credibility of the evaluation process. They urged investment in monitoring and evaluation capacity, and accountability of and incentives for staff. Delegations requested more examples of the decentralization evaluation function for the next review in 2013.

30. Delegations recommended that evaluation of a country programme be mandatory prior to planning a new programme cycle. They stressed the need to involve partner countries and regional experts in the evaluation process, observing this would help build national ownership and capacity, and improve opportunities to learn from results. Delegations reiterated the need to maintain the independence of the Evaluation Office for quality control and transparency.

Evaluation of the regional programme for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2006-2010, and management response

31. The Director, Evaluation Office, introduced the evaluation report (DP/2010/22). The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States provided management's response to the evaluation report (DP/2010/23).

32. One delegation stressed the need for clarification on how UNDP will make "a clear distinction between project management and consulting modes of operation" with regard to the Bratislava Regional Centre (DP/2010/23), as this relates to how UNDP defines the role of a regional centre versus a regional bureau and with regard to the context of achieving efficiency and effectiveness.

33. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/15 on the annual report on evaluation; and, decision 2010/16 on the independent review of the UNDP evaluation policy. They took note of the evaluation of the regional programme for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2006-2010, (DP/2010/22), and the management response (DP/2010/23).

V. Human Development Report

34. In line with General Assembly resolution 57/264, the Deputy Director, Human Development Report Office, provide an update on the consultation process and insight into the 20th anniversary theme of the 2010 Human Development Report (HDR).

35. Delegations urged caution on the use of new terminology and indices, like the poverty measurement index, as these lack an agreed global definition and may not be cleared by respective governments. They emphasized the need for political impartiality, and for inclusion of country-specific contexts and external shocks, like the food crisis, in the ranking system. Several delegations encouraged more linkage and synergies between the HDR and MDGs.

36. The Deputy Director stated the HDR takes into account the crisis experience of countries and that the 2011 HDR will include national vulnerabilities and cultural context. She reviewed data sources and the verification process, and stressed that this year's report, more than in the past, is about stimulation of debate.

37. The Executive Board took note of the update on Humanitarian Development Report consultations (DP/2010/24).

VI. UNDP country programmes and related matters

38. The Associate Administrator invited delegations to comment on draft country and regional programmes.

39. The Executive Board took note and commented thereon a total of 11 draft country programmes documents: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Serbia, Swaziland and Turkey. There was one draft regional programme (Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States).

40. The Executive Board also took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Albania, Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Seychelles, South Africa, Ukraine and Viet Nam; and, of the six-month extension of the country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania.

41. The first two-year extension of the country programmes for Namibia, Nepal and Sierra Leone and the second one-year extension on the country programme for Zimbabwe were approved.

42. Delegations requested more analysis, lessons learned and improvements to the new programme, and suggested featuring practitioners from the field on their use of lessons learned. One delegation stressed the need for consistent inclusion of gender issues. Another delegation proposed exchange of best practices among middle-income countries, to modify criterion for measuring per capita income to include a wider range of middle-income countries, and to broaden the definition of 'triangular' cooperation to recognize innovation and potential replication.

43. The Executive Board took note of the draft country programmes and extensions, and adopted decision 2010/25 on the request by the United Republic of Tanzania to present a draft common country programme document to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP.

VII. Report of the Ethics Office

44. The Director of the Ethics Office introduced the report of 2009 results and achievements while the Associate Administrator provided the management response.

45. Delegations requested plans for establishing baseline information from which impact can be measured in 2011, and how learning gaps of staff are being met. They expressed concern about the reliance on external consultants with regard to sustainability and skill sets of staff.

46. The Director noted that qualitative and quantitative tracking of training is ongoing through the inclusion of ethics questions in staff surveys and monitoring such elements as the number of training events and staff participation. She added that staff feedback on content and facilitation comes via face-to-face workshops, online training and case studies. She confirmed that certification and training of staff is underway to reduce reliance on external consultants.

47. The Associate Administrator reassured the sustainability of the Office and that management will continue to assess related needs and available resources.

48. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/16 on the report on the Ethics Office — UNDP activities for 2009.

VIII. United Nations Capital Development Fund

49. The UNDP Associate Administrator opened the item, commending UNCDF for scoring in the top tier of all bilateral and multilateral agencies participating in the 2009 Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest microfinance donor rating exercise (Smart Aid Index). The UNCDF Executive Secretary summarized the report on results achieved in 2009 (DP/2010/27).

50. Delegations commended the growth of UNCDF in its activities as showing donor confidence. For future annual reports, they requested more analysis, lessons learned, challenges and the impact of activities on vulnerable groups. Delegations urged for broadening of the UNCDF donor base. One delegation expressed concern

about the uneven results in Africa when compared with the Asia-Pacific, especially on Indicator 2 (local development), and encouraged to improve this balance before taking on too many new projects. Another delegation cautioned UNCDF expansion in areas where other agencies and partners are more expert.

51. The Executive Secretary thanked delegations for their comments and requested more un-earmarked resources. The Associate Administrator reiterated commitment to all funds and programmes related to the UNDP, including UNCDF, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

52. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/17 on the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2009.

IX. United Nations Volunteers

53. In introducing this item, the UNDP Associate Administrator expressed remembrance for five UNVs who recently lost their lives on mission. The UNV Executive Coordinator paid tribute to the deaths of the UNVs, and introduced the report (DP/2010/28).

54. Delegations commended the focus of the organization on, inter alia: national volunteerism; the diversification of volunteer modalities; new technology; South-South cooperation; and, UNV orientation toward UNDP focus areas. Delegations viewed the upcoming 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Volunteer as a chance to advance national volunteerism and partnerships, and synergize with the European Year of Volunteering in 2011 and promote activities to assist stateless persons. Delegations expressed concern about the drop in funding levels between the last biennium and that of 2008-2009, especially for the Special Voluntary Fund.

55. Delegations requested acceleration of gender mainstreaming. Several delegations called for more measurable indicators and results-based reporting. Two delegations recommended use of international volunteers within their own continent to make use of regional human resources and promote "regionalization".

56. The following organizations commented on UNV achievement and partnership: United Nations Department of Field Support; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the World Meteorological Organization; the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace.

57. The Executive Coordinator reiterated the intentional pursuit of diversification of volunteering modalities and results-based management. She shared concern on the slow progress of gender mainstreaming, noting recent dialogue with partners to recognize the value of women volunteers. The UNDP Associate Administrator thanked the Executive Coordinator and the Executive Board.

58. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/18 on the report of the Administrator on United Nations Volunteers.

X. United Nations Development Fund for Women

59. In introducing this item, the UNDP Associate Administrator remarked on upcoming establishment of the new United Nations gender entity and partner The UNIFEM Executive Director introduced the report by reviewing progress management results.

60. Delegations stressed importance of a smooth transition to the new entit avoid gaps in programme implementation. They emphasized "the new entity not exonerate the rest of the United Nations from delivering results on gender coordination", and requested swift appointment of an under secretary general for the entity to be operational by January 2011. One delegation reminded agency of its obligation to the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons Disabilities.

61. The Executive Director thanked delegations and the UNDP Asso Administrator for support of the new gender entity and of UNIFEM, espec during this transitional stage. She stated merging into a single entity could be as a good example of United Nations reform, and agreed there should be no h of programme activities during the transition. She reaffirmed that focus on wo and girls with disabilities should be furthered in the new entity.

62. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/19 on the annual report o Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

UNOPS segment

XI. United Nations Office for Project Services

63. The Executive Director introduced the annual report (DP2010/30) summarized progress in 2009. In light of remaining legacy issues of the organiz in less fruitful years, the Director requested that if there are any negative m reports about UNOPS that the Board contact the organization directly for a more explanation.

64. Delegations commended UNOPS financial achievement in the first replenishment of its operational reserve, and on improved transparency throug organization's website. One delegation queried whether current manage systems are adequate to handle some of the ambitious activities outlined in report. Several encouraged more engagement with United Nations country team coherency and coordination.

65. Delegations welcomed UNOPS work in Africa as "best value for mon They urged UNOPS to engage more with emerging civil society and the pri sector. UNOPS response in Haiti following the 12 January 2010 earthquake rece special thanks by one delegation. Another delegation added its support fo ECOSOC resolution to officially include the name of UNOPS in the UNDP/UN Executive Board, a request put forward by the Executive Board.

66. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/20 on the annual report of Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Joint segment

XII. Internal audit and oversight

67. At the outset, the President informed the Executive Board that the Chair of the UNDP Audit Advisory Committee and the Chair of the UNFPA Audit Advisory Committee were present. As requested by delegations, a representative of the United Nations Board of Auditors was also present.

UNDP

68. The Director, UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) introduced the report on internal audit and investigations in 2009 (DP/2010/31). The Associate Administrator provided the UNDP management response. They were joined on the podium by the chairperson of the UNDP Audit Advisory Committee, who briefed the Board on the activities of her office.

69. Delegations welcomed the satisfactory audit ratings and recognized improvements in the disclosure of audit reports and increased transparency of the recruitment process. Delegations requested explanation on the different methods used in risk assessments and on the inadequate governance of IT functions. Delegations expressed concern about the increase in the OAI workload, as timely proceedings on investigations are crucial for prevention of corruption and justice.

70. Several delegations supported the disclosure of internal audits to donors such as the Global Fund and governments in instances of being the single funding source. Two delegations asked about the consequence of disclosure in general on the quality of the internal audit function. Delegations expressed concern about recurring issues in UNDP project management and finance receiving unsatisfactory audit ratings and felt discomfort at the sharp increase of complaints in financial irregularities and workplace harassment.

71. The UNDP Associate Administrator thanked delegations for their comments and reaffirmed efforts to address areas of repeated concern. She confirmed that the Africa Bureau has implemented all recommendations following its unsatisfactory audit rating and that the OAI will conduct another audit in 2010. Regarding the disclosure of internal audit reports to major donors, she stated UNDP follows Executive Board guidance. She assured that management would address the workload of the OAI.

72. The Director of OAI explained his office tailors its risk assessment methods to each project to determine relevant qualitative and quantitative measures. He said there were positive consequences of the disclosure of internal audit reports, such as making the report more readable and comparable for review by the Executive Board. He responded with concern about the ability to deal swiftly with allegations given the increase of workload. He noted the rise in allegations is a reflection of staff being more aware of reporting facilities and UNDP encouragement to report misconduct.

73. The chairperson of the UNDP Audit Advisory Committee stated she was satisfied with the internal control framework. She acknowledged the importance of IT governance with regard to risk management, and urged OAI not to decrease its professionalism because of limited resources or use ad hoc arrangements. On timely

implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the Committee will continue to work within the change management architecture, such as via training of staff.

UNFPA

74. The Director, Division for Oversight Services (DOS), introduced the report on UNFPA internal audit and oversight activities in 2009 (DP/FPA/2010/20). The Deputy Executive Director (External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management) presented the UNFPA management response.

75. Delegations welcomed the frankness of the report, noting that it suggested a satisfactory level of independence for DOS. They also welcomed the UNFPA management response and the report of the UNFPA Audit Advisory Committee (AAC). They noted the advances UNFPA had made to improve accountability and appreciated the initiatives undertaken by UNFPA in that regard. They urged the Fund to address the human resources, administrative and operations challenges that remained and to take urgent action to improve basic audit and oversight controls. They welcomed the improvements in national execution (NEX) auditing and urged UNFPA to address the outstanding challenges, including continued attention to the underlying causes of the issues as highlighted in the AAC report.

76. Some delegations stated that the DOS report would be more useful if it provided concrete recommendations on strategic and operational questions and that would also facilitate clear responses from the management. They recommended a rapid response to complaints pertaining to fraud and harassment. They were concerned regarding the increase in process and relationship risks mentioned in the DOS report. They concurred with the ACC regarding unrestricted access for DOS to the necessary documents; and asked about the AAC recommendation to establish a means to assess whether the intended results of the Fund's reorganization were achieved.

77. Delegations requested UNDP and UNFPA to provide information regarding the underlying causes of recurring recruitment vacancies and how those causes would be addressed. They urged both organizations to ensure rapid implementation of outstanding audit findings, especially those classified as high priority.

78. The Deputy Executive Director (External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management) thanked the delegations for their guidance. She assured the Executive Board that UNFPA management was focused on addressing the issues raised. The Fund's internal control framework (ICF) had recently been reviewed and updated and was compliant with the standards of the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). With the full implementation of the COSO-compliant ICF, improvements would be seen across the board. She noted that UNFPA had appointed operations managers in all offices to strengthen and support UNFPA operations. Regarding NEX, she underscored that UNFPA had invested enormous efforts in addressing NEX issues and strengthening capacities at country level. While recognizing that some issues remained, she noted that they were complex and required time to resolve. She added that UNFPA would examine the issues further, including in the light of the experience of sister agencies that relied more on direct execution. She stated that UNFPA would undertake a risk-based analysis and explore ways to reduce risks.

79. Regarding recurring vacancies, she noted that UNFPA was addressing the issue and had several mechanisms in place, including the use of rosters to speed up the selection of vetted candidates. She added that UNFPA would undertake wider advertising of job vacancies and reach out further to sister agencies. She observed that there was fierce competition for good candidates. Concerning the Fund's reorganization, she stated that UNFPA had a monitoring framework in place to monitor progress and results. She assured the Executive Board that DOS had free and unrestricted access to all the necessary documents and noted that regrettably one specific office had not provided the needed documents. However, such lack of cooperation was not tolerated in the Fund and the issue was addressed. She concluded by emphasizing that UNFPA management was fully committed to and firmly focused on the follow-up of audit recommendations.

UNOPS

80. The Head of the Internal Audit Office presented UNOPS activities in 2009. In providing an update on accountability, audit recommendations and risk management, the Deputy Executive Director urged for disclosure of internal audit reports to donors in exceptional cases, as well as placement of internal audits on ethics into the public domain for transparency.

81. A number of delegations welcomed comment on and supported the disclosure request to donors like governments and the Global Fund when these entities represent the single funding source.

82. The Deputy Executive Director reaffirmed attention to internal and external audit issues, emphasizing that the audit unit was one of only two in the organization in 2009 that increased its budget and staff to strengthen the function.

United Nations Board of Auditors

83. The representative of the United Nations Board of Auditors welcomed the opportunity to engage with the Executive Board and announced that the reports on the last biennium for all three agencies would be available shortly. He highlighted the importance of IPSAS implementation, and noted that its management and success would depend on leadership at the top of the three organizations.

84. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/22: Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and oversight.

XIII. Field visits

85. The President called upon the respective team leaders and the chief rapporteurs of the Rwanda and Syrian Arab Republic field visits to introduce the respective reports and recommendations (DP-FPA/2010/CRP.1-E/ICEF/2010/CRP.12; and DP/2010/CRP.2-DP/FPA/2010/CRP.1).

86. Participants from Member States thanked the respective Governments of Rwanda and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations country team members and the Resident Coordinators for their hospitality and access to information.

87. Delegations reaffirmed the value of the field visits to better understand the work and challenges of UNDP and UNFPA in the field. One delegation noted that the field visit reports were not assessments, evaluations or inspection of agencies, or of the development status or political/economic situation of a host country. Another delegation proposed to introduce a more systematic way of following up on field visit recommendations, and to consider a follow-up mechanism.

88. The Secretary of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board explained as the respective country offices receive the final report, any follow-up on recommendations takes place at that level. The Chief, UNFPA Executive Board and External Relations Branch, added that the Board had the right to incorporate the recommendations into decisions.

89. The Executive Board took note of the reports of the field visits to Rwanda and the Syrian Arab Republic.

UNFPA segment

XIV. Statement by the Executive Director and annual report of the Executive Director

90. In her statement (see http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd/2010/2010_annual.html), the Executive Director focused on 2010 as an important year for, inter alia: decision-making by world leaders and building momentum for the rights of women and girls to live in dignity, free from fear and violence; advancing the health and rights of girls, including as evidenced at the recent Women Deliver Conference and the Midwifery Symposium; promoting partnerships with a wide range of actors, including to address female genital mutilation/cutting and obstetric fistula; supporting South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation; re-energizing family planning in the context of promoting reproductive health and rights; expanding the global programme on reproductive health commodities; prioritizing gender and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in the response to HIV and AIDS, including empowering young people to protect themselves from HIV infection; working with parliamentarians, Governments and advocates to adopt laws, policies and programmes to end violence against women; strengthening the approach to mainstream emergency preparedness and humanitarian response into programming; supporting the 2010 round of censuses; strengthening results-based management and monitoring and evaluation throughout the organization; addressing the challenges of national execution, including through capacity-building; and prioritizing accountability and audit, including revising the internal control framework and moving towards the full adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

91. The Executive Director updated the Executive Board on the Fund's progress with its reorganization. She reported on her decision to locate the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO) in Istanbul, Turkey, and underscored that UNFPA had followed a transparent process using the same criteria as utilized for locating the other regional offices. She informed the Board that regrettably another challenge had been encountered in relocating the Arab States Regional Office as UNFPA had been unable to finalize the agreement with the Government of Egypt. She said that she would inform the Board as soon as she had

made a decision and hoped to complete the establishment of the remaining regional office by the end of 2010. (It should be noted that subsequently, on 29 July 2010, the host country agreement with the Government of Egypt was signed).

92. In the course of her statement, the Executive Director introduced her annual report DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part I); DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part I, Add.1); and DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part II). She elaborated on the Fund's involvement in and contribution to United Nations reform and system-wide coherence, including Delivering as One. The Executive Director also discussed the upcoming midterm review (MTR) of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2013, and recognized it as an opportunity for strategic repositioning of the Fund. She thanked all who had made contributions to UNFPA, including donors that had increased their contributions — Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland and Italy. She thanked the Fund's top ten donors: Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, United States of America, Denmark, United Kingdom, Japan, Finland, Germany and Spain. She concluded by stating that "Throughout history, women have delivered for their families, communities and nations. Now it is time for the world to deliver for women".

93. Delegations commended the insightful and comprehensive statement by the Executive Director and her visionary leadership. They congratulated the Executive Director on her recent award recognizing her "Lifetime of Delivering for Women". Delegations appreciated the leading role of UNFPA in supporting countries in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), including in the areas of population and development; SRH, including HIV prevention; and gender. They commended UNFPA for its work to intensify and scale up HIV prevention and to link HIV response to SRH. UNFPA was commended for supporting the distribution of the female condom and one delegation asked about demand creation; improved distribution; and increased affordability/access. Another delegation called on UNFPA to harness the capacities for production of reproductive health commodities in developing countries.

94. Underscoring the need to create a better understanding of population dynamics and the interlinkages with development, delegations encouraged UNFPA to continue support for data collection, analysis and use. One delegation stressed the need for sustained UNFPA support for capacity-building of national statistics organizations and also called on the Fund to harmonize its data in close collaboration with those organizations. The increased UNFPA support to South-South cooperation was commended.

95. Several delegations commended UNFPA for the support provided to their respective countries and regions and referred to various health initiatives, for example, the recent launching in Sierra Leone of the national chapter of the African Union Campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). The role of UNFPA in humanitarian and emergency response was also commended. One delegation asked how the current budget structure impacted UNFPA ability to initiate and resource humanitarian responses. The delegation emphasized the importance of improving the Fund's capacity to carry out disability-inclusive programming; advocate for the rights of people with disabilities; and support data collection on people with disabilities through censuses.

96. Delegations commended the Fund's contributions to advancing the Delivering as One agenda in pilot countries, as a broker, a vocal advocate of better coherence

and a pacesetter for joint programming. They called on UNFPA to continue its leading role in United Nations reform. One delegation urged UNFPA and the United Nations system to fully implement the 'firewall' agreement and to keep the Executive Board informed of progress and/or constraints. Delegations supported the creation of the new gender entity and were interested in learning about UNFPA engagement with the new entity.

97. Delegations welcomed the comprehensive annual report and took note of the progress in implementing the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2013. They recognized the improvements made in the annual report and welcomed the inclusion of a lessons learned section for each outcome. They observed that the inclusion of baselines and targets along with the 2009 performance made the report informative and reader-friendly. They asked that future reports include a more explicit link between UNFPA inputs, the outputs achieved and nationally owned outcomes. A deeper analysis of how activities and outputs related to outcomes and impacts was requested. Some delegations asked that future reports include a delineation of how UNFPA would deal with challenges. Some delegations emphasized that results reporting was not just about performance assessment but also provided opportunities to tell "the good stories to politicians and the tax payers". Some delegations suggested that the Executive Board consider having formal thematic discussions at future meetings and confine broad/general statements to the annual session.

98. Delegations appreciated the update on the preparations for the MTR of the current strategic plan and requested further briefings/consultations. They urged UNFPA to use the MTR as an opportunity for reviewing the development results framework; improving the targets and outputs; and strategic repositioning.

99. Delegations underscored the need for urgent action to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and stressed that tackling maternal mortality and reproductive health and rights were key areas of the development agenda. They expressed concern about high maternal mortality and the slow progress in achieving MDG 5 to improve maternal health. They reaffirmed the fact that access of women to health care would increase their productivity and help to reduce maternal and child mortality. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of health workers and their uneven distribution (particularly the shortages in sub-Saharan Africa) which undermined the health systems in developing countries. Urgent work was needed on family planning to improve education and awareness and the availability of family planning services. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran raised the issue of a UNFPA website posting that made reference to a position on the family by one of its officials that was inconsistent with the ICPD Programme of Action.

100. Delegations stated that unless new, additional and sustained resources were provided to developing countries, it was unlikely that the MDGs would be met. They hoped that UNFPA and H4 organizations joined by UNAIDS would collaborate closely in the implementation of the Secretary-General's initiative on the Joint Action Plan for Women's and Children's Health. The Fund's strong leadership in promoting the contribution of midwives to women's health was commended. The delegation of Sweden stated that it had selected MDG 5 as its main priority in the preparations for the MDG High-level Plenary Meeting in September and intended to allocate an additional 25 million Swedish kronor to its special initiative.

101. Delegations commended the long-standing collaboration of UNFPA with parliamentarians who were at the centre of the development of national policies on

population and development. The Fund was also commended for focusing attention on emerging issues such as ageing. It was underscored that there was a growing need for more focused attention on youth to meet their multisectoral needs and address the declining opportunities for education and employment.

102. Numerous delegations supported the Fund's decision to locate the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in Istanbul, Turkey. The delegation of Turkey expressed its appreciation to UNFPA and assured the Executive Board of its commitment to support UNFPA and to ensure collaboration.

103. Since it was the Executive Director's last annual session, the President took the opportunity to pay tribute to her leadership, noting that in very complex political circumstances for the ICPD agenda she had turned UNFPA into a development force, with increased resources and the highest number of donors in the United Nations system. UNFPA was a partner respected by Governments and given a seat at the table during policy dialogues. Under the Executive Director's leadership, including by promoting respect for the cultural dimensions of development, the ICPD agenda had gained wider acceptance globally. The President concluded by thanking the Executive Director for her significant contribution to development around the world.

104. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their supportive comments on the work of UNFPA and their kind words to her personally. She welcomed the return of the head of the delegation of the United States of America and appreciated the strong message of support that had been conveyed. She thanked delegations for the constructive comments regarding improvements pertaining to the annual report structure/content and concerning the upcoming MTR of the strategic plan. She stated that UNFPA had noted the suggestions and would consult the Executive Board members regarding strategic repositioning for the next strategic plan. She observed that UNFPA planned to provide country programme evaluations at the time of submission of new country programmes to the Board. She underscored UNFPA commitment to national execution (NEX) and noted that it was a joint responsibility of UNFPA and national partners to make it work better. She added that NEX challenges could be discussed by the Board during one of the thematic discussions that had been proposed by some delegations.

105. She appreciated the positive comments and recognition of UNFPA engagement in and contributions to United Nations reform. She underscored that UNFPA would work with the gender entity as a full partner and noted that each agency would still need to deliver on its mandate, including relating to gender. UNFPA would focus on addressing gender, culture and human rights as they related to the ICPD Programme of Action. She elaborated on the work of the H4 organizations, including the focus on countries with the highest maternal mortality, the link between maternal mortality and HIV, the division of labour among the H4 and the inclusion of UNAIDS.

106. She thanked all the delegations that had highlighted the importance of the work of UNFPA to support achieving the MDGs and thanked the delegation of Sweden for announcing funding for its special initiative on MDG 5. She discussed the UNFPA Maternal Health Trust Fund to support strategic investments; intensifying demand creation; and meeting contraceptive needs (including female condom provision) through the global programme on reproductive health commodity security. She reiterated UNFPA commitment to supporting South-South

cooperation and noted the Fund's partnership with Partners in Population and Development. She observed that ageing was a growing area and UNFPA supported training, data development, research and worked closely with other development partners. She elaborated on the Fund's work with persons with disabilities at country and global levels.

107. She thanked delegations for appreciating UNFPA work regarding censuses and other data collection efforts and noted that the theme for the 2010 World Population Day was "data for development". She clarified that for its flagship publication the State of World Population, UNFPA utilized data from the United Nations Population Division and Statistics Division and those data were based on national statistics and harmonized in accordance with agreements reached by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

108. The Executive Director assured the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Executive Board that UNFPA was always consistent with the ICPD Programme of Action and abided by it. She clarified that the website posting did not reflect the position of UNFPA or of the staff member but was a misrepresentation by a third-party source and as such would be removed from the website. (The item was immediately removed from the website).

109. Regarding resources, the Executive Director concurred with delegations that had stressed the importance of increased, timely and predictable core contributions. She thanked all countries that had made contributions, including those that had increased their contributions and/or made multi-year pledges. She elaborated on the Fund's regionalization, noting that technical and programme support had been integrated to provide more effective assistance to country offices.

110. Regarding the process envisaged for the selection of the new Executive Director, she noted that the Secretary-General would send a letter to the Permanent Missions requesting applications for the post. Candidates would be presented through their governments or could nominate themselves and would go through the established process of competitive recruitment, including short listing, interviews by a senior-level panel to recommend a further short list of three or four candidates who would be interviewed by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General would make the ultimate decision, also taking into account consultations with the Executive Board.

111. The Executive Director concluded by paying tribute to the delegates who were moving to positions outside New York. She thanked them and the Executive Board as a whole for championing the ICPD agenda and supporting UNFPA and its mission and mandate.

112. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/23: Report of the Executive Director for 2009: progress and achievements in implementing the UNFPA strategic plan.

XV. Funding commitments to UNFPA

113. The Chief, Resource Mobilization Branch (RMB), introduced the Report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2010 and future years (DP/FPA/2010/18) and provided an update on the UNFPA funding situation. He noted that, as of 15 June 2010, the UNFPA income forecast

estimate for contributions to core resources was approximately $457.6 million, a decrease of $9.4 million from the time the report was finalized in March with a forecast of $467.9 million. As of 15 June 2010, of the 108 official pledges, 32 were multi-year pledges. Regarding 2010 revenue projections, he provided an amendment noting that the projected decrease in the contribution of France was 22 per cent. He thanked the Executive Board and all countries for their close collaboration and unwavering support.

114. Two delegations took the floor underscoring that UNFPA needed predictable, timely and increased core resources to assist countries in implementing the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development. They encouraged countries to make multi-year pledges. Mauritania announced that it had doubled its contribution to UNFPA for the period 2009-2011. Belgium noted that it had substantially increased its contribution to UNFPA regular resources.

115. The Chief, RMB, thanked the delegations for their strong support to UNFPA.

116. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/24: Report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2010 and future years.

XVI. Country programmes and related matters

117. At the outset, the President announced that the extension of the country programme for Peru (DP/FPA/2010/25) had been added to the agenda under item 16: Country programmes and related matters.

118. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) introduced the 10 new draft country programme documents (CPDs) and 18 country programme extensions. The Directors of the UNFPA regional offices for Africa; Arab States; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Eastern Europe and Central Asia elaborated on the programmes from their respective regions.

119. Ten delegations from donor countries made a joint statement on how country programmes were designed, presented and implemented. Noting the twofold challenge of learning from evaluations to improve programme delivery, they stressed the importance of: (a) integration of lessons learned into programme design to ensure relevance and to track performance; and (b) use of the lessons learned by programme implementers to make their work more effective. They welcomed the decision of UNFPA management to evaluate country programmes in the penultimate year of the programme cycle. To improve discussions of CPDs at the Executive Board, the delegations suggested that the presentations by the UNFPA regional directors should focus on an analysis of lessons learned and improvements made in the new CPDs. Furthermore, the presentations could also feature a few practitioners from the field to demonstrate how they incorporated lessons learned in the CPDs. The delegations underscored that a reasonable pool of quality evaluations was necessary to draw useful lessons. They were concerned about the low compliance rate of country offices with regard to their evaluation plans and urged UNFPA senior managers to take the necessary steps to improve compliance.

120. During the discussion, one delegation delivered a statement on behalf of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China emphasizing that the overarching principle of United Nations operational activities was national ownership and

leadership. The delegation reiterated the Group's position that United Nations development assistance, particularly its operational activities, should not be politicized and should be carried out according to the principle of national ownership, respecting the sovereignty of programme countries and preserving the neutrality of the funds and programmes. The delegation underscored that the Executive Board members were expected to guide the agencies on the technical aspects of the country programmes. The delegation stressed that all issues should be discussed in the appropriate forums.

121. Delegations made comments on specific draft CPDs, including satisfaction with the emphasis on health-system strengthening and quality monitoring and evaluation; complementarity of capacity-building efforts with other development partners; training for policymakers in data analysis and use in developing health policies and programmes; and the focus on gender equality. Delegations encouraged coordination with the Global Fund and other health initiatives in addressing maternal mortality; inclusion of baselines and targets for output indicators; and the timely provision of country programme evaluations.

122. Several delegations spoke in support of the programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Some delegations emphasized the need for thorough and rigorous programme monitoring, including ensuring that the programme reached the intended beneficiaries and no cash was supplied. Acknowledging the long-standing support of UNFPA to reproductive health and rights and population and development in China, one delegation stated that the Fund's activities in China were making a significant and positive impact at local, regional and national levels. The delegation commended the Fund's work in China. Referring to the draft CPD for Georgia, the delegation of the Russian Federation stated that it was unacceptable for its country to be presented as a party to the 2008 armed conflict. The delegation emphasized the need for the work of the United Nations and its funds and programmes to be neutral and non-politicized. The delegation stated that the governments of the two independent republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia should be consulted with the aim of finding an appropriate format for cooperation with UNFPA.

123. The concerned delegations thanked the Executive Board for the extension of their respective programmes. The following delegations expressed appreciation for the support provided by UNFPA: Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mauritania, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania.

124. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the Directors of the regional offices thanked the delegations for their constructive comments and for the appreciation of UNFPA support. They assured the Executive Board that in accordance with decision 2006/36 the comments on the draft CPDs would be conveyed to the concerned countries to take into account in finalizing the CPDs. They also assured the Board about the firm commitment of UNFPA to the principles of neutrality, universality and multilateralism, as well as to national leadership and ownership.

125. The Executive Board approved the two-year programme extensions for Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sierra Leone. The Board also approved the second one-year programme extension for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Board took note of the one-year programme extensions for Albania, Bangladesh, Cape Verde,

Chad, Ghana, Mauritania, Myanmar, Peru, Somalia, South Africa, Ukraine and Viet Nam and the six-month programme extension for the United Republic of Tanzania. The Board took note of the draft CPDs for Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Swaziland and Turkey and the comments thereon, which would be conveyed to the concerned countries to take into account in finalizing the programmes, as per decision 2006/36.

126. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/25: Request by the United Republic of Tanzania to present a draft common country programme document to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. Following the adoption of the decision, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo congratulated the United Republic of Tanzania on the adoption of the request and the success achieved in Delivering as One. The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania expressed its gratitude to the Executive Board for the unwavering support and noted that the Delivering as One initiative had had a transformative impact on the national Government and civil society.

XVII. Evaluation

127. The Director, UNFPA Division for Oversight Services (DOS), introduced the biennial report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2010/19). The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) presented the UNFPA management response.

128. Delegations acknowledged the positive commitments made by UNFPA management to continue to improve the evaluation culture and thanked the management for the constructive response to the findings on evaluation. Based on experiences from their own agencies, they recognized that it took time to develop an "evaluation culture" within the organization. They called on UNFPA to give priority attention to: the development of operational guidance; movement to the "nested approach" to evaluation to allow measurement of impact; recognition that performance monitoring and continuous improvement were core functions; enhancement of monitoring activities; and presentation of evaluations at the time of submission of new and extended country programmes to the Executive Board. They were pleased to note that the UNFPA management response and the biennial evaluation plan reflected the recognition that to ensure lesson learning, evaluations should be a prerequisite to planning of new cycles of country programmes. They welcomed the UNFPA management decision that evaluations would be undertaken in the penultimate year of the country programme cycle.

129. Some delegations commended UNFPA for recognizing the need to harmonize evaluation methods across the United Nations system. They noted that harmonizing methods did not equal to conducting joint evaluations. Regarding capacity development at the country office level, they suggested that training could be organized jointly by the United Nations country team supported by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). They encouraged UNFPA to continue making its evaluation reports available through the UNFPA website and stressed that all evaluation reports should be available to DOS. One delegation asked when there would be a discussion in the Executive Board on the 2009 evaluation of the UNFPA humanitarian response, referred to in DP/FPA/2010/19. Another delegation thanked

UNFPA for its contributions to the Global Campaign to End Fistula. One delegation thanked UNFPA for the support provided by the Fund for its country's census.

130. A number of delegations stated that they had expected to see in the DOS report a systematic survey and information on the key findings and recommendations of evaluations carried out during the biennium under review. They called for a joint effort between DOS and UNFPA management to address the issue of the low number of evaluation reports. Some delegations asked if the biennial evaluation plan 2010-2011 offered a complete list of scheduled evaluations and noted that evaluations planned by DOS should be included in the complete list. It was stated that information on implementation and impact be included in the DOS evaluation report as well as in the UNFPA management response to be presented to the Executive Board annual session 2012. Also, DOS was asked to include information in future reports on the conclusions and recommendations of evaluations.

131. Delegations encouraged UNFPA to take further steps towards evidence-based programming and to make better and more systematic use of evaluation findings by incorporating lessons learned into subsequent programme cycles. Some delegations encouraged joint evaluations and hoped that future evaluation reports would contain the salient findings of evaluations, especially recurrent findings. One delegation asked if there were sufficient human resources available to implement the new evaluation policy throughout UNFPA.

132. The Executive Director thanked the Executive Board members for their guidance and assured them that UNFPA was committed to accountability. She underscored the independence of DOS and appreciated the work of the DOS Director. She drew the Board's attention to the issue of attribution and contribution, noting that long discussions had taken place on the issue when the Fund's strategic plan was being developed. She emphasized that it was again time to focus attention on the subject, particularly in light of the one common country programme where it was necessary to think about how evaluations would be conducted regarding the contributions of the United Nations funds and programmes and national governments. She noted that the "nested approach" to evaluation also raised complex questions concerning attribution and contribution. Referring to the issue of capacity, she called on the Board to assist UNFPA in addressing the issue of resources for evaluation. She hoped that in the next budget the Board would allow for additional resources to further strengthen evaluation in UNFPA. She also invited the Board members to consider having a thematic discussion on how to move forward on audit and evaluation in the new programming and funding environment, with an emphasis on national leadership and ownership.

133. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the delegations for their constructive comments and appreciated that they had recognized the steps taken by UNFPA to strengthen evaluation. She concurred that additional efforts were needed to improve the quality and timing of evaluations and to enhance lesson learning from evaluations. She noted that joint training was already undertaken within the United Nations Development Group and UNFPA would look into expanding it. She stated that UNFPA had taken note of the advice and suggestions offered by the Executive Board members and would incorporate them in its work. Also, DOS would be requested to add to the list of planned evaluations. She thanked the Government of Switzerland for continuing the secondment of a staff member to the

Fund's Evaluation Branch and she appealed to other Board members to consider seconding staff for evaluation to either DOS or the Fund's Programme Division.

134. The Director, DOS, thanked the delegations for their comments and assured them that comments pertaining to the DOS reports would be taken into account in the next biennial report.

135. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/26: Biennial report on evaluation.

XVIII. Other matters

Role of UNDP and UNFPA regional offices

136. The UNDP Associate Administrator and the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) provided an overview of the role of UNDP and UNFPA regional offices.

137. One delegation asked about policy dialogue and whether strategic planning occurred at country and regional levels in relationship to the strategic plans of the respective organizations. Another delegation noted the synergy of co-location and asked what measures were taken to ensure synergy in cases where regional offices were not co-located.

138. The UNDP Associate Administrator highlighted inter-agency collaboration and mechanisms for support of policy dialogue.

139. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) noted that the Fund's regional priorities were broadly derived from the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2013, which in turn was driven by country and regional priorities. She provided a number of specific examples to illustrate the point. She concurred regarding the synergies resulting from co-location and noted that during 2012-2013 there would be an evaluation of the Fund's regionalization. She noted that harmonization and alignment were at the core of co-location and where UNFPA was not co-located with UNDP it was co-located with other United Nations organizations, wherever feasible.

Other events

140. The following panel discussions/briefings took place:

(a) *Special event panel discussion — Eradicating poverty: Why sexual and reproductive health matters*. The President of the Executive Board chaired the special event and presentations were made by the Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda; an associate professor from Georgetown University, United States of America; the Deputy Director, FP/RH for Health Policy Initiative Project, Futures Group International, United States of America; and a health economist and health systems expert from Nigeria. Concluding remarks were delivered by the Executive Director, UNFPA.

(b) *Joint side event on humanitarian and emergency response — Sexual and reproductive health in crises, recovery and beyond: Not just a women's issue*. The Director-General for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, chaired the side event and presentations were made by the Minister of

Women's Affairs, Haiti; the Chief, Humanitarian Response Branch, UNFPA; a
Senior Recovery Adviser, BCPR/UNDP.

(c) *Panel on the role of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in capacity develo and aid/development effectiveness*. Presentations were made by the As Administrator and Director, Bureau of Development Policy, UNDP; the D Technical Division, UNFPA; and the Deputy Executive Director, UNOPS.

(d) *UNDP informal briefing on the MDG International Assessmen* presentation was made by the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bur Development Policy, UNDP.